

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 PM-03 NSC-07

SP-02 SS-14 RSC-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 INRE-00 L-02

DRC-01 /057 W

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FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA BAHRAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE 1565

INFO SECDEF WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE

JCS WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE

CNO WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK

COMIDEASTFOR

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAMA 0828

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, BA,US

SUBJECT: RETAINING MIDDLE EAST FORCE IN BAHRAIN

REFS: STATE 223222 (NOTAL), MANAMA 818, MANAMA 788

1. I MET WITH FOREIGN MINISTER OCTOBER 10. HE CONFIRMED
GOB PREPARED TO ACCEPT U.S. NOTES ON ARTICLES 11 AND 14.
REQUEST AUTHORITY TO PRESENT THEM AT APPROPRIATE TIME.

2. FOREIGN MINISTER REITERATED GOB WOULD LIKE TO FORMALLY
CONSIDER ALL ELEMENTS OF MIDEASTFOR PACKAGE AT SAME
TIME AND HENCE AS PROCEDURAL MATTER PREFERRED THAT WE HOLD
BACK ON SUBMITTING NOTES ON ARTICLES 11 AND 14 OF
STATIONING AGREEMENT UNTIL "ECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS"
ARE WORKED OUT. HE PLANS TENTATIVELY TO DISCUSS RENT
QUESTION WITH ADMIRAL HANKS AND ME OCTOBER 13. WE ARE
RUNNING INTO TIMING PROBLEMS. I LEFT DISCUSSION TODAY
WITH CLEAR IMPRESSION GOB NOT YET PREPARED TO TABLE ITS
OWN ASKING PRICE FOR RENT, ALTHOUGH IT MAY BE SO PREPARED
BY OCTOBER 13. ALSO LEFT WITH IMPRESSION THAT FIGURE
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ADMIRAL HANKS AUTHORIZED TO TABLE INITIALLY WILL BE

FAR FROM ACCEPTABLE TO BAHRAINIS. TIMING PROBLEM COMPLICATED BY PENDING EID AL-FITR HOLIDAY WHICH IS LIKELY TO KNOW GOVERNMENT OUT OF COMMISSION FROM OCTOBER 15 UNTIL OCTOBER 20, WHEN FOREIGN MINISTER LEAVES FOR PRE-SUMMIT MEETING IN MOROCCO. HENCE WE WILL NEED TO BE PREPARED TO MOVE VERY QUICKLY IF TENTATIVE OCTOBER 13 MEETING PRODUCES CLEAR PICTURE OF EXACTLY WHAT WE CAN GET BY WITH ON RENT AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.

3. RE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE: FOREIGN MINISTER REITERATED TODAY THAT DETAILS WOULD NOT HAVE TO BE PINNED DOWN AT THIS TIME SO LONG AS GOB HAS ASSURANCES WE WILL BE FORTHCOMING IN PROVIDING FUNDING TO OFFSET COSTS OF U.S. ADVISORS. AS WE WENT OVER ONCE AGAIN THE VARIOUS INHIBITIONS ON OUR MAKING SUCH A COMMITMENT AT THIS TIME, I ASKED HOW MUCH REAL PROBLEM GOB WOULD FACE IF U.S. FUNDING OF ADVISORS OPENLY TIED TO POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS; I.E., SUPPORTING ASSISTANCE. FOREIGN MINISTER REPLIED THAT WHILE GOB WOULD PREFER NOT TO HAVE LINKAGE BETWEEN TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND MIDDLE EAST FORCE DISCUSSED WITH U.S. CONGRESS, HE BECOMING INCREASINGLY CONVINCED THIS CONSIDERATION LESS IMPORTANT THAN URGENT NEED FOR GOB TO SHOW IT GETTING SOME U.S. SUPPORT. WHATEVER THE SOURCE OR RATIONALE. HE ADDED THAT SINCE NAVY PRESENCE HERE HAS SUCH OBVIOUS POLITICAL OVERTONES IT BECOMING MORE AND MORE ABSURD TO TALK ABOUT "COMMERCIAL RENT". FOREIGN MINISTER INCIDENTALLY ALSO PERSISTS IN CONFIRMING THAT GOB TOLD BY SAUDIS USG PREPARED TO OFFER "\$4 MILLION".

4. FOREIGN MINISTER NOTED WIRE SERVICE AND U.S. PRESS REPORTS ON CONTINUED MIDDLE EAST FORCE PRESENCE AND SAID KUWAIT PRESS HAD PICKED THIS UP. TODAY, AT LEAST, HE DID NOT APPEAR VERY CONCERNED ABOUT PRESS COVERAGE.
TWINAM

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Message Attributes

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